

For the latest news on international test developments

TESTING TIMES

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A NEW STATU-TORY, MANDA-TORY POST-BREXIT / POST-PANDEMIC

"BRITISH ENGLISH FIRST" ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Leading members of the current Westminster government are apparently working on a plan to re-organise English Language Testing. The main reasons for this are the recent UK's departure from the EU (BR-EXIT) to achieve some form of national sovereignty, but also the follow-up policy of withdrawal from the Association of Language Testing in Europe (BR-EX-ALTation) to achieve linguistic sovereignty ("Splendid ESOL-ATION"). A disillusioned conspira-TORY M.P. has whistleblown a copy of the draft (RED, BLUE and) WHITE PAPER entitled: "We want our Language Back!" to the TESTING TIMES Editorial Team. In this special edition of ELT's favourite jocular journal, we are therefore pleased to be able to publish significant details of the projected changes.

The main protagonists of this new initiative are **Boorish Johnnie English**, who is taking on the post of Chief Assessor (or, as he is known from various antics and public policy statements: Chief Ass), and **Priti Pathetic**, who, in view of her experience in TESOL (Tests for Excluding Speakers of Other Languages) is eminently suited for the post of Chief Non-Admissions Officer.

The main principles of the initiative are

Let's Take Back Control

and

We want our language back

Here is a sneak preview of the EX-ALT-ation manifesto.

LEAVE EURO-ENGLISH

with its corrupt, impure "English" phrases (*) such as:

"On the other side", "How is it called?", "We were two at the party." And "I had the possibility to attend a workshop."

LEAVE Global English

with its polluted, tainted, "English" phrases (*) such as:

"You're very busy today, isn't it?"; "The picture who .." / "A person which... ", "I'm looking forward to see you tomorrow".

VOTE FOR REAL ENGLISH

NO MORE GERMAN MEASLES! NO MORE BRUSSEL SPROUTS!

NO MORE SWISS ROLLS! NO MORE TAKING FRENCH LEAVE!

NO MORE GREAT DANES! NO MORE DUTCH COURAGE!

NO MORE TURKISH DELIGHT! NO MORE PORTUGUESE MEN-OF-WAR!

The Venetian Blind shall be the "Westminster Blind"!

French Polish shall be "British British"!

Remember! Britannia Rules English Grammar!

English will never never be a EURO-enclave!

(x) cf www.wikipedia.org

- THE BRITISH FIRST EFL Test Committee -

1] CEO - Chief Elimination Officer: **Boorish Johnnie English**

Boorish Johnnie English, also known as the Preda-TORY, has excellent credentials for the post of Chief Ass. His research into testing theory with his focus on *empirical* (i.e. British Empire-ical) data covers areas such as variations in *paired formats*, particularly with regard to *gender-based random sampling*. His experience in the development of *multiple-choice* activities offers deep insights into the optimal number of *distractors*, and his skills in producing so-called (*w*)*anchor items* is second to none. As a team leader in governmental circles, his choice of so-called experts as departmental heads provides clear evidence of his *minimum competence assessment* skills based on a *multi-faceted* (at least two) *approach*. Other relevant features are his general *masked-face validity* where a certain *halo effect* is evident. However, he is reported to be lacking *reliability* in certain *standard-setting* situations (perhaps as a consequence of his moth-ETON values) and in the area of accurate and objective *self-assessment*.

In terms of *scoring* and *grading*, he has years of experience as a *rater*, particularly with reference to *vocife-rating*, *exagge-rating*, *ae-rating*, *degenerate-rating*, *gy-rating*, *pero-rating*, *perpet-rating* and *vitupe-rating*.

Other competence areas he brings to this new post are in the practical use of language where he constantly demonstrates C2 level proficiency in *avoidance strategies* and *vague language*. Equally he displays a range of many *lower order skills* (= A1/2) when it comes to performance-related competences such as *fluency*, *coherence* and *cohesion*, evidence of which can be heard in the House every Wednesday during Question Time. These sessions, which are now known as "Starmer versus Stammer", are of particular interest to students of Politician English in view of the preponderance on his part of *accusatives*, *pro-vocatives* and *answer-evasion*.



The decisive factor concerning his appointment was the red *sylla-bus* used during the anti-EUROENGLISH campaign to illustrate the newly developed *FALSE / FAKE multiple-choice item format*.

2] CNO - Chief Non-Admissions Officer: **Priti Pathetic**

The CHIEF NON-ADMISSIONS OFFICER, **Priti Pathetic**, also known as the Peremp-TORY, has similar qualifications to endorse her appointment, having been previously involved in IELTS (Immigrant Ejection via Language Testing Schemes) and TOEFL (Throwing Out and Expelling Foreign Language-Students) for a number of years. In her new post, she will be responsible for converting *common entrance examinations* into common exit examinations.

Her experience and research cover many specialist areas in the field of test theory, ranging from various forms of *bias* for the purpose of preventing access to *fair appraisals*, where she has developed a *high discrimination index*, to issues of *standard deviations* from 'true blue' norms. Her speciality is the development of *CLOZE tests*, both *random* and - very, very occasionally - *rational CLOZE tests*, with special reference to *borderline candidates*, no matter what the co(a)st, for which reason, after intensive 'navel-gazing', she is Channelling her armed forces into radi-Calais and unethi-Calais preventing incursions and invasions by people she considers illegal language criminals trying to invade and break into UN guaranteed test application procedures (= 'Britannia waives the rules'). Regarding test formats, she is a keen supporter of *dictation* and *forced response items*. Her latest project concerns the development of "False/False" tests to ensure zero-level success.



In terms of practical assessment and grading, she can look back on years of *be-rating*, *denig-rating*, *remonst-rating*, *emig-rating* and *disinteg-rating*.

3] NHS - Chief National Homelanguage Safety/Security Officer: **Mutt Hans Cock-Up**

The CHO in charge of the British NHS (National Homelanguage Safety), **Mutt Hans Cock-Up**, also known as the supposi-TORY, is a firm believer in MASKuline forms in order to protect National Homelanguage Syntax and authenticated English native speakers from inflected foreign elements that might eMASK-ulate real British English. To this end, he has produced a special so-called world-beating diagnostic and displacement test device "APP YOURS", in order to TRACE, TRACK and TEST all language items for any form of morphing or non-morphing inflections. Due to his ill-conceived and deluded insistence that the UK develop its own world-beating APP, and the inadequate quality of 50 million MASKuline items purchased by his minimum competence level department, he could easily be eMASKulated himself in the next reshuffle.



DETAILS OF THE NEW BRITISH EFL (ENGLISH FIRST TEST)

The new statu-TORY, manda-TORY, post-BREXIT / post-pandemic "BRITISH ENGLISH FIRST" assessment system will, according to the leaked document, have the following innova-TORY features:

Test Venue:

One exclusive main testing centre will be established, to be located in Durham, well-known as an easily accessible venue for all kinds of Cummings and Goings, even during lockdowns, with a sub-centre at nearby Barnhard Castle, especially suitable for the visually challenged. No police checks!

Grading:

Grades will be awarded according to the following evalua-TORY scale:

80% - 100%:	Contribu-TORY or Six-Figure Donor Status
60% - 80%:	Conserva-TORY or Crikey!
80% - 60%:	Unsatisfac-TORY or World-Beater
60% - 40%:	Lava-TORY or Bog-Standard
40% - 20%:	Desul-TORY or Surrender
20% - 0%:	Purga-TORY or Humiliation

Test Format:

Of the ten items per test, Questions 01 - 09 will be *multiple-choice format* with the following possible items:

TRUE / FALSE

FALSE / FAKE

FALSE / FAKE / NOT IN THE MANIFESTO (= SYLLABUS)

The No. 10 multiple-choice item will have the format:

NO / er - YES / er - NO / er - PERHAPS / er - GOSH / - er - What was the question again?

Gap-filling will not be used as a testing format, as the obfusca-TORY approach of the government does not favour people filling in information gaps by themselves.

Enjoy!

Hope to see you in the coming weeks and months! And:

Stay Safe in these difficult times!

Geoff